CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Felony Fights 4: Down And Dirty

Other known title(s): Felony Fights Volume IV

OFLC ref: 0901232.000

Medium: DVD

Director: Kurt Osburn

Producer: Not stated

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Comptroller of Customs

Classification:	Objectionable.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 27 October 2009

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

	Components	**Running time**
Menu:	Play Scenes Extras	
Feature(s):	Felony Fights 4: Down And Dirty	46:41
Timed component(s):	Felony Fights Notice/Music Video	4:19
Total running time:		51:00

Summary of reasons for decision:

The publication is classified as objectionable due to the manner in which it presents violent and criminal activity. The publication consists of ten illegal fights filmed with handheld cameras. The

participants are encouraged to inflict serious harm on their opponents, and this is presented as an exhilarating and entertaining activity for participants, spectators, and the viewer. Many of these brutally violent incidents are watched by cheering crowds communicating an attitude in which the viewer is invited to share. The publication therefore has the potential to transmit to its likely audience not only an open contempt for the criminal law, but also an attitude that committing criminal activity is exhilarating, personally advantageous and a means to achieve a certain level of notoriety.

A classification of "objectionable" places a limit on the right to the freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, given the high extent and degree to which the publication presents criminal acts and violence as a means of entertainment, the classification is considered to be a reasonable limit prescribed by law that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.